

National Broadcasting
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July 31, 1998

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20054

JUL 31 1998

Re: MM Docket No. 87-268
WMAQ-TV, Chicago, IL
Request for Extension of Time

Dear Ms. Salas:

NBC Subsidiary (WMAQ-TV, Inc.), ("NBC"), licensee of WMAQ-TV, Chicago, IL, respectfully requests an additional three-month extension of time to submit its application for a construction permit for DTV Channel 29 in Chicago, IL.

By letter dated May 28, 1998, the FCC staff granted NBC's previous request, filed on April 28, 1998, for an extension of time to file its DTV construction permit application. That earlier-filed extension request set forth in great detail the efforts NBC had undertaken to secure an agreement with the owner of the Sears Tower for a lease for its DTV facilities, as well as NBC's involvement with the Chicago Digital Broadcasting Committee. That request is incorporated by reference herein.

NBC has continued to work closely with the landlord of the Sears Tower to secure a lease for our DTV facilities. We engaged the services of an antenna design firm to analyze the feasibility of locating three digital stations - WMAQ-TV, WLS and Channel 50 - at the top of the West tower. The antenna design firm came up with a proposal which would accommodate the DTV facilities of all three stations and NBC presented this proposal to the Sears landlord. The landlord has had several meetings with representatives of Channel 50 in an attempt to get approval for this proposal, which would require modification of the current Channel 50 lease agreement. Despite repeated efforts to resolve this matter (we have been advised that the landlord speaks with Channel 50 representatives at least once or twice weekly), Channel 50 has not yet responded to the proposal. NBC has been assured by the landlord that every effort is being made to move the negotiations along to a favorable resolution.

NBC has continued to pursue alternative locations for our DTV facilities. We continue to be actively involved with the Chicago Digital Broadcasting Committee which has met with City representatives, as well as a number of different developers who are

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interested in building a new 2000 foot skyscraper in Chicago. The roof of this building would be dedicated to housing the DTV facilities for all the Chicago television stations. While it is difficult to predict the outcome of any of these discussions, placing the DTV antennas on a 2000 foot structure would be an excellent long-term solution to finding the most favorable location for all of the stations' DTV operations.

NBC is committed to continuing its aggressive efforts to resolve this tower situation as quickly as possible. We are prepared to proceed to complete negotiations for a lease with The Sears Tower and commence construction immediately thereafter. We are requesting a three-month extension of the application deadline, from August 1, 1998 to November 1, 1998, to allow NBC to bring the current negotiations to a successful conclusion, or, if necessary, to find an acceptable alternative location for our DTV facility.

Please direct any questions concerning this matter to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


Diane Zipursky

cc: Chairman William E. Kennard
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Roy Stewart
Barbara Kreisman
Clay Pendarvis